

Festival successes at Belfastmet

Youth Lyric festivals are the highlight of our year. Every one of our students gets the opportunity to perform for parents and friends and the atmosphere is electric! We are grateful to Belfast Metropolitan College for allowing us to use the award winning Tower Street theatre for our showcases.



Adjudicator and professional actress Sheelagh O'Kane from BMC congratulates senior students



BAFTA winning festival adjudicator Sandy Cuthbert from BMC congratulates students at our senior festival

Youth Lyric Senior cup winner receives Trinity Guildhall certificate



Christina Sturgeon who won the Youth Lyric Senior cup for 2011 receives her Trinity Guildhall certificate from Naomi Long MP. Naomi added "It's always a pleasure to support Youth Lyric - they're really inspirational".



Adjudicator William Scott (UTV) congratulates Junior pupils at our recent festival



Adjudicator Jennifer Reid congratulates students at our Junior festival

What Youth Lyric means to me



Joanne with BAFTA winning adjudicator Sandy Cuthbert from Belfast Metropolitan College

By Joanne Russell

I remember my first day at Youth Lyric, I was anxious yet excited to be joining the organisation. Little did I know how much it had to offer. I have participated in many of their productions such as The Witches, Canterbury Tales and Twelfth Night, and of course the end of year festivals. These experiences have given me opportunities and given me the confidence to apply for Head Girl in my school, and also be awarded the position! It has also given me a major confidence boost in many other areas. I would have never thought I would be able to step out and perform in front of hundreds of people! Who else would I want to share those pre-performance jitters with than the members of the Youth Lyric team. The staff are all extremely welcoming and kind to our new and present members. Youth Lyric has become a home for me. There is nowhere else I'd rather be on a Saturday afternoon!



Youth Lyric NEWS

ISSUE 3

Summer scheme goes from strength to strength

The fabulous facilities at St. Ita's Primary School in Belfast provided the venue for the latest highly successful creative summer school. Young people from across Belfast attended our week long celebration of creativity and completed workshops in drama, mime, art and dance! **We will be back again in November with a Halloween creative school!**



Making new friends at Youth Lyric



Having fun with the puppet theatre!

Welcome to Youth Lyric News from our Honorary Patron James Nesbitt



"I am delighted to be associated with Youth Lyric and really enjoy my visits to their annual productions in the Waterfront Hall. The young people onstage have so much talent, enthusiasm and commitment and I look forward to meeting them all again during my next trip. I was actively involved in youth theatre as a teenager and know from experience of just how many benefits come from participating in youth arts."

Best wishes
Jimmy Nesbitt

COME AND JOIN US! NURTURE YOUR DRAMATIC SIDE AND JOIN

YOUTH LYRIC

- Weekly classes in Antrim and Belfast
- Fully qualified teachers
- Specialist tuition in acting and dance
- Annual festivals and productions

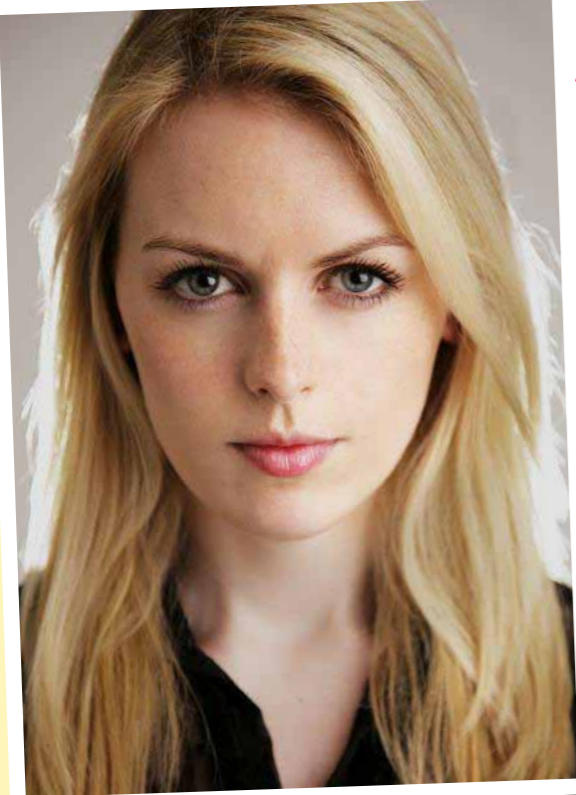
AGE GROUPS	5-6 yrs	7-11 yrs	12-16 yrs	17-21 yrs
CLASS TIMES - ANTRIM:				
Tuesdays only		4-5 pm	5-6 pm	
CLASS TIMES - BELFAST:				
Monday		5-6 pm and 6-7pm		
Friday			5-6 pm and 6-7 pm	7-8 pm
Saturday	9-10 am	10-11 am	11-12 noon 12-1pm 1-2pm	

Auditions for our next production in the Waterfront in February 2012 will be announced soon!

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Worldwide links of Youth Lyric alumni



Alana Kerr

Leading actress and TV presenter Alana Kerr was a member of Youth Lyric for several years. Alana recalls: "I will always remember with great fondness the first time I realised acting was something particularly special to me. I was 11 years old and had been attending weekly classes at Youth Lyric for about a month. I suppose you could say that was the beginning of a path that took me to the Grand Opera House where I have appeared in Marie Jones' and Martin Lynch's "Dancing Shoes: The George Best Story". I look back with great fondness to my days at Youth Lyric and wish the company all the best for the future."

Anna Hughes

I was a member of Youth Lyric from around 2001 to 2004. I remember vividly the Saturday morning bus trips across Belfast and the steep climb up the hill at Stranmillis, but most fondly of all I remember seeing Mrs Carson at the entrance desk with a welcome smile. The classes were great fun and encouraged me to break out of my comfort zone and try new things. I had never had modern dance lessons before I started and, thanks to great encouragement (and dare I say patience) on the part of Jane, I managed to grasp the basics and even won a prize for my dancing at festival! The opportunity to perform was simply brilliant. I currently practice as a Barrister in London and each day I make use of the skills I developed with Youth Lyric. The mark that Youth Lyric has made on me and the unbelievable amount I received is a debt that I will never finish repaying.



Sinéad Rocks

Growing up in Belfast in the 1980's wasn't always easy but despite the political turbulence - the Youth Lyric classes carried on regardless. They provided a wonderful opportunity for young people from widely disparate backgrounds to get together, to share experiences and to learn from some of the most creatively talented and inspiring teachers I have ever met. The Youth Lyric gave me confidence and allowed me to express myself creatively in ways that I feel have helped shape the person I am today.
— Sinéad Rocks Creative Director, BBC Learning.



Michael Moran

Although I do now spend much of my working life in theatre, medicine eventually lured me away from a career in drama. Youth Lyric provided a fantastic opportunity for me to develop confidence and creativity as a young teenager, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. It represents an inexpensive way to experience and learn theatre arts, and as such is just the type of inclusive cross-community group that symbolises the new Northern Ireland that I have been lucky enough to know for most of my life.
— Mr Michael Moran, Specialty Registrar in Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery, Academic Clinical Fellow in Head and Neck Cancer.



Margaret Gray

Barrister-at-law Margaret Gray recalls her Youth Lyric years in the early nineties: "Dedicated and lively staff who take a keen interest in the students by encouraging independent thought and original expression of ideas is one of my enduring memories of Youth Lyric. Jane's dance classes dispensed with inhibitions, Aidan encouraged collaborative group work with no place for prima donnas while at the same time building individual confidence, and Mrs Carson kept the show on the road. Aidan's invaluable support and teaching continues during my career as an advocate. Having nurtured my interest in drama, Youth Lyric training allowed me to join theatre groups as a way to settle into new places and meet people in Oxford, London and Luxembourg. I am now practising at the Dublin Bar and, while being a mother of two leaves no spare time for my amateur dramatics, my children need little but are getting a lot of encouragement from me for their theatricals, largely fuelled by my fond memories of the sheer good fun of the Youth Lyric. Thanks!"



Belfastmet partnership



Suzanne Gray, Faculty Head at Belfastmet and Youth Lyric Board member Lynda Bryans make a presentation to Michael Turner who designed the poster for our production of the Twits.

Hollywood A listers visit

Internationally acclaimed casting directors Ros and John Hubbard, whose professional credits include Lord of the Rings, The Commitments, Father Ted and the Bourne films starring Matt Damon, honour us with regular visits to Belfast to attend rehearsals, see our productions and offer careers advice to our talented young performers. Ros and John Hubbard offered individual feedback to those in principal roles. After meeting the cast and production team onstage at the Waterfront Hall during one recent visit John commented "We felt like royalty when Ros did the line of talent and I paced around behind her with my hands clasped behind my back!"



Internationally acclaimed casting Directors Ros and John Hubbard.

Presidential backing for Youth Lyric!



President McAleese with YL board members Lynda Bryans and Mike Nesbitt MLA

We were delighted to welcome the President of Ireland Mary McAleese and her husband Dr. Martin McAleese to our production of Romeo and Juliet at the Waterfront. The President was so impressed with the production that when she met the cast after the performance she invited them to her home for afternoon tea! A delighted coach party of cast, crew and Youth Lyric Board members were delighted to visit Áras an Uachtaráin a month later.

Business and council support



Gerry Mallon CEO Northern Bank, Lynda Bryans and High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Ian Adamson OBE.